

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 JIDDA 05853 281048Z

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ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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O 280925Z AUG 76 ZFF-4

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5704

S E C R E T JIDDA 5853

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, SA, US

SUBJECT: LOA'S FOR FMS MILITARY SALES TO SAUDI ARABIA

REF: STATE 213618

1. IN ANSWER TO THE SECRETARY'S REQUEST FOR MY JUDGMENT AS TO CURRENT "FLEXIBILITY" WITH SAUDIS ON SIDEWINDER/MAVERICK SALES, I REGRET TO SAY I CANNOT DISCERN ANYTHING RESEMBLING FLEXIBILITY IN THAT MATTER AT THE PRESENT TIME. THE FOREIGN MINISTER WAS, TO PUT IT MILDLY, VERY UPSET WHEN I CARRIED OUT INSTRUCTIONS TO TELL HIM WE WERE CUTTING SIDEWINDER FIGURE FROM 2000 TO 1000. IF NO OTHER FACTORS WERE IN PLAY I MIGHT CONSIDER THE CUTS IN SIDEWINDERS FROM 1000 TO 800 AND IN MARVERICKS FROM 1500 TO 800 (TO CITE YOUR EXAMPLES) AS MANAGEABLE, PROVIDED WE INTEND TO FULFILL TOTAL TRANSACTION. IN THE CONTEXT OF BOYCOTT LEGISLATION AND OPEC PRESSURES THE MISSILE PROBLEM TAKES ON A MUCH MORE SERIOUS ASPECT.

2. I AM ASSURED THAT THE SAUDI LEADERSHIP UNDERSTANDS THE SECRETARY'S PROBLEM AND THEY FEEL THEY HAVE MADE THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO EASING IT. NEW CUTS IN WHAT WE ARE PREPARED TO DELIVER, THE UNCERTAINTIES OF THE FUTURE, AND THE EFFECT ANTI-BOYCOTT LEGISLATION MAY HAVE ON THEIR DEVELOPMENT PLAN COULD EASILY CHANGE SAUDI PREFERENCE FOR MAINTAINING PRESENT OIL PRICES AND PRODUCTION TO SOMETHING QUITE DIFFERENT ALONG LINES NOW ADVOCATED BY VENEZUELA, IRAN, IRAQ, ALGERIA, ETC.

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3. NEEDLESS TO SAY, THE SAUDIS ARE FOLLOWING OUR ACTIONS ON

THESE ARMS SALES CLOSELY. THE MAIN HEADLINE IN TODAY'S PAPER  
READS "US TO REDUCE SALE OF MISSILES TO SAUDI ARABIA." THE  
ARTICLE SAYS THE ADMINISTRATION IS PREPARED TO CUT SIDEWINDER  
SALES TO 1000 FROM 2000; AND THAT CONGRESSIONAL SOURCES BELIEVE  
THE ADMINISTRATION CAN BE PUSHED BACK TO A 750 FIGURE. IT ADDS  
YOU ASSURED THE CONGRESS SAUDI ARABIA WOULD NOT RECEIVE THE  
MOST ADVANCED VERSION OF THESE MISSILES(SEPTEL).

4. SO "FLEXIBILITY" IS NOT EXACTLY THE WORD. WE APPEAR TO BE  
HEADING FOR A "CRUNCH" WHICH WOULD BE HIGHLY DAMAGING TO U.S.  
INTERESTS.

PORTR

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PERSONAL OPINION, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, MILITARY SALES, MISSILES, SIDEWINDERS, BOYCOTTS, US CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS, CAT-B  
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**Disposition Authority:** ShawDG  
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